



1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

June 17, 2004

Mr. Robert Schroeder, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar Street, Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
for three new transmission lines from the Mankato Energy Center to the
Wilmarth Substation and the expansion of the Wilmarth Substation, all
located in Blue Earth County**

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Northern States Power Company, now doing business as Xcel Energy, hereby notifies the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) of its intent to submit an application under the alternative process to construct two 115 kV transmission lines, a 345 kV transmission line and to expand the Wilmarth substation to accommodate the interconnection with the Mankato Energy Center. We will be following the procedures in parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2750 as authorized by Minnesota Rule 4400.2000. This letter is provided to comply with the requirements of Rule 4400.2000, Subp.2.

Xcel Energy plans to file the application at the end of the month. We will work with Staff to address any comments they have in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 715-839-4661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Pamela Jo Rasmussen', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Permitting Analyst

c: George Johnson
Tom Bailey